



THE LATEST NEWS IN THE WORLD OF CM/ECF

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What's New?

The times, they are changing! Our journey into the CM/ ECF(Case Management Electronic Case Filing) world began in November, 1997. Our caseload grew from two(2) cases filed that first month to over 43,608 cases. We currently have over 200 registered ECF participants district wide.

Almost four(4) years later, we are embarking into the next stage of ECF. We have moved very slowly and precisely through this process. We have successfully provided several in-house and on-site training sessions for attorneys, trustees, and their staffs.

Effective January 2, 2002, the Northern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court's goal is to maintain totally electronic files for all cases filed after that date. In an attempt to make the transition to becoming a paperless court a more efficient process, Judge Cotton issued the following notice on July 26, 2001:

"As our local bar is aware, our Court has served as a pilot in the electronic case files ("ECF") project, and we are rapidly approaching the day when all papers filed with the court will be available for viewing on

*the Internet. To further our goal, we will now increase to some extent the number of documents scanned by the Clerk's Office. As we put more emphasis on scanning original papers, we must overcome a major impediment to that process. The impediment is that papers that have been folder and stapled tend to jam the scanners. Consequently, the Court will now enforce **Bankruptcy Rule 5005-1(i)**, a rule forgotten by most and ignored by the rest. Bankruptcy Local Rule 5005-1(i) provides:*

All papers presented to the Bankruptcy Clerk of Bankruptcy Judge for filing shall be flat and unfolded and firmly bound at the top.

*Effective immediately, all persons filing with the Court any document in paper form, including proofs of claim, **whether at the public counters or by mail**, shall comply with B.L.R. 5005-1(i). The binding at the top of the paper presented as the original shall be **by paper clip** and shall **NOT** be stapled. Copies to be returned to the filer may be bound by staples.*

Failure to comply with B.L.R. 5005-1(i) may result in sanctions."

This notice was, and continues to be, distributed throughout the district in the Intake areas and in correspondence from the Court.

As a result of the online availability of all new petitions filed with the court after January 1, 2002, Clerk's Duplicates will no longer be available for public review. The following notice is posted in the public areas in the Clerk's Offices district wide:

In furtherance of the Court's Case management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) project, **ALL CASES** filed on and after **January 1, 2002** will be opened and maintained electronically in the CM/ECF system.

Paper copies of bankruptcy petitions will not be available for review after December 31, 2001.

Clerk's duplicates will also not be available after December 31, 2001.

We are currently targeting the next group of filers for the CM/ ECF Program. That group will include companies and creditors' attorneys who file large volumes of claims with the court. This group will be allowed limited access to file claims only.

We are excited and proud of our efforts in this project and we look forward to moving into the true "paperless" world!

In order to view documents online, you will be required to have a PACER account. You may obtain a PACER login identification and password from the PACER Billing Center by calling 1-800-676-6856. The local access number for PACER in Metro Atlanta is 404-730-3264. The toll free number

outside the Atlanta Metro area is 1-800-436-8395. PACER website - <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>

3RD QUARTER STATISTICS FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Division	Total # of Cases Filed	Total # of Paperless Cases	Percent of paperless Cases
Atlanta	6718	2499	37.2
Gainesville	909	279	30.7
Newnan	1148	211	18.4
Rome	1419	649	45.7
TOTAL	10194	3638	35.7

New CM/ECF Participants

Darrell Burrow

Scroggins & Williamson

J. Robert Williamson
Frank W. Scroggins

Troutman, Sanders, LLP

Harris Winsberg
Felicia Street Turner
Mary Grace Diehl
Ezra Harry Cohen

Topping and Austin

Thomas S. Topping
Thomas E. Austin
Heath Williams

Wayne A. Coe

Bankruptcy Software Update

The software packages that provide automatic upload capabilities for new petitions are:

- Bankruptcy 2001
- Best Case Bankruptcy for Windows
- Bankruptcy Plus
- EZ Filing

Docketing a Withdrawal

It has been noticed that when a motion, objection, etc. is being withdrawn by the filing party, the wrong event is being picked.

To withdraw a document, click on the "other" category, choose "0-Withdrawal of Document". Link the withdrawal back to the item originally filed.

In instances where you are withdrawing a claim which you have filed, you will click on "claim action" and choose "withdrawal of claim". You will need to know the claim number that was assigned.

If any assistance is needed, please contact the Operations Help Desk at (404) 215-1000 - press 4 and then press 1.



About ECF Filing Fees...

Please let Lynn Saunders, Financial Administrator, know if there are any changes with your credit card holder (i.e. card expired, new account number, etc.). Please call 404-215-1132 and notify the Financial Administrator of your new credit card expiration date.

A new Credit Card Authorization form must be submitted on all new credit card accounts. This form is provided for your convenience online. Click this link [Credit Card Authorization Form](#).

Reminders

Review your docket entries when entering a new petition *before* you upload to the Court. If the petition states that the filing fee is to be paid in installments, but you fail to file the *Application to Pay Filing Fee in Installments* the same day you open a case, the full filing fee will be charged to your firm's credit card.

The Application to Pay Filing Fee in Installments should be docketed as a separate pleading from the petition entry.

When amending the voluntary petition, use the appropriate event code (Initial Docs 06: Amendment to Voluntary Petition). If you docket it as a voluntary petition again, the case appears on the filing fee report as a new fee.

If you are a trustee and an attorney, you must have two (2) ECF logins. If you need the additional login, please fill out the ECF Live [registration form](#) and credit card authorization form (if one is not already filed with the Court) and send to the attention of Irene Wiggins.

FEEDBACK

We value your participation and opinion!

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gary_drake@ganb.uscourts.gov

mike_smith@ganb.uscourts.gov

ECF Filings for August 2001

Court	ECF Live Date	Percentage of New Cases Opened Via ECF in August 2001
Arizona	10/97	23.0%
CA Southern	3/98	45.0%
Delaware	8/01	10.0%
GA Northern	11/97	36.5%
LA Middle	2/01	100.0%
MO Western	3/01	88.0%
NY Southern	11/96	13.2%
NC Western	5/01	13.2%
VA Eastern	10/97	43.1%
TX Western	5/01	24.5%
WA Western	7/01	9.5%

CM/ECF Implementation Status

Date * is start of implementation (and Wave #)

Date * is start of live operation (and Wave #)

black italics indicates *scheduled date* rather than actual date

Court	Bankruptcy	District
AK	Oct-01 ²	
AL-M	Jul-01 ⁴	
AL-N		
AL-S	Jul-01 ⁴	
AR-E	Dec-01 ³	
AR-W	Dec-01 ³	
AZ	Oct-97 ^P	
CA-C		
CA-E		
CA-N		Apr-01 ^A
CA-S	Mar-98 ^P	
CO	Mar-01 ²	
CT		
DC	Nov-01 ⁶	Jan-01 ^A
DE	Aug-01 ¹	
FL-M		
FL-N		
FL-S		
GA-M	Aug-00 ^W	
GA-N	Nov-97 ^P	
GA-S		
GU		
HI		
IA-N	Jul-01 ⁴	
IA-S	Jan-01 ¹	
ID		
IL-C		
IL-N		
IL-S	Jul-01 ⁴	
IN-N	Nov-01 ⁶	
IN-S		Jul-01 ^{5-W}
KS		
KY-E	Jul-01 ⁴	
KY-W	Jul-01 ⁴	
LA-E	May-01 ³	
LA-M	Feb-01 ^W	
LA-W	Nov-01 ⁶	
MA		
MD	Nov-01 ⁶	
ME	May-01 ³	
MI-E		
MI-W		Aug-01 ^A
MN		
MO-E		
MO-W	Apr-01 ^W	Oct-97 ^P
MS-N	Nov-01 ⁶	
MS-S		

Court	Bankruptcy	District
MT	Nov-01 ²	
NC-E		
NC-M		
NC-W	Apr-01 ^A	
ND		
NE	Feb-02 ³	Jul-01 ^{5-W}
NH	Mar-01 ²	
NJ	Jan-01 ¹	
NM		
NMI		
NY-E	Dec-01 ^W	Nov-97 ^P
NY-N	Nov-01 ⁶	
NY-S	Nov-96 ^P	Jul-01 ^{5-W}
NY-W		
NV	Nov-01 ³	
OH-N	Sep-01 ²	Nov-97 ^P
OH-S	Nov-01 ⁶	
OK-E		
OK-N		
OK-W		
OR	Mar-01 ²	Nov-97 ^P
PA-E	Nov-01 ⁶	Jul-01 ^{5-W}
PA-M	Nov-01 ⁶	
PA-W	Jul-01 ⁴	
PR		
RI		
SC	Jan-01 ¹	
SD	Dec-01 ³	
TN-E		
TN-M	Aug-00 ^W	
TN-W		
TX-E	Jul-01 ⁴	
TX-N		Jul-01 ^{5-W}
TX-S	Jul-01 ⁴	
TX-W	Apr-01 ^A	
UT	Oct-01 ^J	
VA-E	Oct-97 ^P	
VA-W		
VI		
VT	Jan-01 ¹	
WA-E		
WA-W	Jun-01 ^W	
WI-E	May-01 ³	Jul-01 ^{5-W}
WI-W	May-01 ³	
WV-N	Jan-02 ³	
WV-S		
WY	Nov-01 ^A	

October 2001

CM/ECF Underway in:

44 Bankruptcy Courts
13 Operational

14 District Courts
8 Operational

Circuit

1st	
2nd	
3rd	
4th	
5th	
6th	
7th	
8th	
9th	
10th	
11th	
DC	
Federal	

Other Courts

CIT	Dec-00
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Court of International Trade

MD-MDL	Jul-00
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Maryland - MDL only

Wave # shown in date

- * A = Alpha
P = Prototype
W = Wave Test
nn = wave number